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Abstract for an Invited Paper for the TSS12 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Physics Careers: To the Bachelor's Degree and Beyond

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In our current era, society needs an increased representation of physicists in the workforce to help solve the growing number of societal and environment problems we collectively face. And even though a physics bachelor's degree opens the door to an incredible diversity of high-paying and rewarding careers, most undergraduates are only aware of academic career paths (having mostly encountered only physics professors during their lifetime). This talk will provide in-depth information about physics career paths outside of academia which available to those with a bachelor's degree in physics, and will discuss how these options change as one moves through an advanced degree in physics. The talk will include real-life examples of working physicists at all stages of the degree path, and salary and employment sector statistics for physics bachelors, masters, and PhD recipients. The talk will also include information on additional careers and professional development resources for students.